(e) The details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains (Rice and Wheat) under TPDS during the last three years is as under: -

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Year	Allocation	Offtake
2004-05	716.99	293.55
2005-06	716.21	311.05
2006-07	576.59	313.79

The foodgrains are issued at Central Issue Prices (CIPS) under the TPDS. The Price applicable during the period are as under:

Commodity	APL (Rs. perQtl)	BPL (Rs. perQtl)	AAY (Rs. perQtl)
Rice** (i) Common	795	565	300
(ii) Grade A	830	665	300
Wheat**	610	415	200

'Applicable from 1.7.2002.

Procurement of wheat by FCI

4029. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are not selling wheat to the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

.(c) how many outlets have been opened to procure wheat by FCI; and

(d) what action is being contemplated to procure adequate wheat in order to provide fair distribution through Fair Price Shops of Government In the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) is actively undertaking procurement in wheat producing States. As on 7.5.2007, FCI and other Government agencies have purchased 88.16 lakh tonnes of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08.

(c) 13128 centres for wheat procurement have been opened by FCI and Government agencies in the current RMS 2007-08, out of which 1697 centres were opened by FCI themselves and 11431 centres were opened by State agencies.

(d) The steps taken to procure adequate wheat in RMS 2007-08 in order to meet the requirements of the Targeted Public Distribution Scheme and other welfare schemes are given in Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government for adequate procurement of wheat in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2007-08

(i) The Minimum Support Price for wheat was fixed at Rs. 750 per quintal for RMS 2007-08, an increase of Rs. 100 per quintal, in order to encourage farmers to grow more wheat. Now, according to the Third Advance Estimates of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, the estimated production of wheat is likely to be 73.7 million tonnes in crop year 2006-07 compared to 69.3 million tonnes in crop year 2005-06.

(ii) An incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal over and above the MSP is also being given in RMS 2007-08.

(iii) A Committee of officers/Experts was formed to recommend an appropriate strategy for wheat procurement in RMS 2007-08, and the recommendations of this Committee have been acted upon appropriately by the Government.

(iv) Import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat was done in 2006-07 which has improved the stock position of wheat in the central pool and the wheat stocks (as on 1.4.2007) were more than the buffer norms of 40 lakh tonnes at the start of RMS 2007-08,

(v) Wheat exports on private account have been banned upto 31.12.2007. Wheat exports from Central Pool are also banned.

(vi) Decision was taken to release 4 lakh tonnes of wheat under OMSS in February and March 2007 to cool the market prices before the start of RMS 2007-08.

(vii) The Government is keeping very close watch on domestic and international prices of wheat.

(viii) A notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007" has been issued under the Easential Commodities Act 1955 on 1.3.2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual which purchases wheat beyond 50.000 tonnes during 2007-08 shall furnish to the Central Government a return indicating the name/ address of the company, quantity of wheat purchased and quantity of wheat held in stock.

(ix) Department of Consumer Affairs has extended upto 31st August, 2007 notification under the EC Act enabling State Governments to impose stock limit on wheat and pulses.

(x) Import of wheat on private account at zero duty has been permitted upto 31.12.2007.

(xi) 13128centers for wheat procurement have been opened by Government agencies in RMS 2007-08 as compared to 8985 centers in RMS 2006-07.

(xii) Senior Officers of Department of Food and Public Distribution and FCI are frequently visiting wheat procuring States to personally assess the situation.

Utilization of foodgrains by BPL families

†4030. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) wheather the consumption of foodgrains by the people living below poverty line is less in comparision to its availability;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.